



New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women

CANTERBURY BRANCH

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NEWSLETTER APRIL 2016

NEXT BRANCH MEETING

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the next meeting will be the Awards Evening on Wednesday 25th May to be held at the Jack Mann Auditorium, University of Canterbury (former College of Education), Solway Ave at 5.30pm. As is usual at this event we will have the opportunity to hear about their areas of research from our very talented award winners and we hope to see a large attendance of members.

THE FUTURE FOR NZFGW

Recently three Branch members attended a very important meeting in Wellington to discuss the future of our organisation. The main items are presented below and we would be most interested to hear from you. Please contact any member of the branch committee with your thoughts and any suggestions for the future of NZFGW.

The outcomes of our Strategic Thinking Workshop

On 19 March 2016 the National Executive held its annual face-to-face Council meeting. In addition to the Branch Presidents, the Chairs of the Trusts were invited to attend. Consequently, those present included-

Ann Pomeroy	<i>President</i>
Pat Sivertsen	<i>Trust Treasurer and Independent Members Co-ordinator</i>
Christine Ross	<i>Public Affairs Convenor</i>
Vivienne Bryner	<i>National Awards Convenor</i>
Jan Tan	<i>NE, North Shore Branch and Charitable Trust</i>
Amanda Tayor	<i>Website</i>
Gail Hutcheson	<i>National Newsletter</i>
Queenie Lin	<i>Treasurer</i>
Shabnam Seyedmehdi	<i>Marketing and Membership</i>
Elizabeth Eppel	<i>Secretary</i>
Noeline Alcorn	<i>Waikato Education Trust</i>
Vanessa Ward	<i>Otago Branch and Charitable Trust</i>
Sandy Stephens	<i>Nelson Trust</i>
Sita Venkateswar	<i>Manawatu Branch and Charitable Trust</i>
Rowena Taylor	<i>National Executive</i>
Sally Hasell	<i>Wellington Branch and Charitable Trust.</i>

There were three members from Canterbury: Bernadette Devonport National Co-ordinator International Relations; Ellen McCrae Trust; and Helen Heddell Branch President.

The Council meeting was very productive and most of the day was spent on a Strategic Thinking exercise that focussed on the future of NZFGW through the four goal areas of the 2013-2018 NZFGW Strategic Plan. (See the NZFGW website for this plan). Ann Pomeroy has summarised the meeting in an article in the latest NZFGW newsletter highlighting the key changes that National Executive is proposing but **it is important that Canterbury Branch members have the opportunity to think carefully about the proposals and discuss them now.**

Please read and think about the following:

1) **NZFGW and GWI**

We need to **strengthen two-way communication with GWI** to ensure that NZ members feel they are part of GWI and also ensure that GWI gets feedback from NZFGW about the needs and preferences of our members. NZFGW needs to **make GWI capitation income and expenditure available to members** through the Newsletter and Website. NZFGW would like to publicise the **more impact evaluation** done by GWI on the effectiveness of their awards and influencing/lobbying activities.

2) **NZFGW**

Who is NZFGW and why do people join or not join NZFGW.

What do we offer our members? We need to create a sense of belonging, especially for older members and create incentives for younger members interested in scholarships to 'pay it forward'

What barriers do branches encounter in attracting members?

What connects the beneficiaries of charitable trusts and charitable trustees and NZFGW?

Improve communication between Branches, IMs, NE and GWI.

Ideas for action:

Highlight what we have in common— Create a common 'brand', remove the word Federation from our name. Change to reflect GWI connection and connection between Branches/IMs so that there is consistency of naming nomenclature and ownership of the national organisation. Have the Branches and Independent Members use the same format, such as Graduate Women Wellington; that is, have consistency in names (and in email addresses?)

One membership form; Create an 'introductory offer' to attract new members; Create more flexible sub payment options to attract new members and retain existing members.

Shorter, pithier newsletters with links to follow to more detailed information for those that want it and providing links between Branches. Pool our communication about awards.

Remove the duplication/overlap between Branch and National Newsletters – perhaps just one Newsletter with a section for each branch to customise to their Branch needs.

Once a year meeting with other women's groups / organisations.

Have an external communication (media) person at national level. Each Branch could do this in their own area as well?

Do more than just fundraise for awards and look towards achieving our objectives.

Branches can advocate on behalf of other women both internationally and nationally. "Local connotations at international level." Branches must connect and NZFGW must connect with other organisations. "More to being a member than hearing someone talk" Make better use of our collective efforts for the benefit of the organisational collective and not just the originating branch.

Highlight our diversity. Perhaps reflect the notion of 'paying forward' and encouraging young women to work within our organisation to contribute to their community- the notion of 'what have I done in the past month to achieve GWI/NZFGW objectives?'

Other Ideas for consideration:

Adopt a challenging national project. Make our target: "Those currently missing out on Level 2 NCEA equivalent and missing out on tertiary education."

3) Three future scenarios:

Near to the status quo – independent entities very loosely linked and largely uncoupled in governance and management except to the extent that the NZFGW Constitution and rules allow the Branches and members to control NE.

A conservative shift - increase linkages between independent entities and strengthen the coupling of the independent entities within a common 'brand', and mission. Entities are separate in their governance and management but linked through shared mission statements and a shared newsletter.

A more radical scenario -Membership is of national body with strong clear links to GWI. Only Trusts remain managed at local level. The tiered governance/management structure is removed to allow members to concentrate on achieving aims rather than multiple layers of administration. Representatives from all regions manage and govern a national body responsible for all communication – one newsletter, one website, hosting links to various Charitable trust awards websites. Groups come together for particular initiatives to share experiences, submit to government, raise funds for Charitable trusts etc. – and may disband in fluid fashion afterward. Centralised management and dispersal of any non-Trust funds.

	Scenario 1 <i>(Near status quo)</i>	Scenario 2 <i>(stronger coupling of entities through Brand name, mission and shared newsletter)</i>	Scenario 3 <i>(branches and IM network are networking and social hubs within a single organisational unit)</i>
Linkages to GWI	Weak – stated in long title of the organisation but otherwise rarely referenced.		Strong and clear
Linkages between various charitable trusts and NZFGW			This is a primary link
Linkages between charitable trusts and branches			N/a
Governance of NZFGW	Set by NZFGW Constitution and no change envisaged	Set by NZFGW Constitution and no change envisaged	Set by NZFGW Constitution – changes required
Governance of Branches	Set by Branch Constitution and linkages to NZFGW vary Naming nomenclature and reference to NZFGW as part of name also varies across Branches	Branches encouraged to adopt new naming nomenclature and make explicit the mission, tagline and linkages to NZFGW, other branches and charitable trusts, and GWI	To be disestablished – no formal meetings required
Governance of IM Network	Set by NZFGW Constitution and no change envisaged	IM Network encouraged to adopt new naming nomenclature and make explicit the mission, tagline and linkages to NZFGW, other branches and charitable trusts, and GWI	Communication rather than Governance.
Linkages to Mission and tag line <i>“Changing the world by degrees”</i>		Common mission, tag lines used by all	Common mission, tag lines used by all
Newsletters	Each Branch and NE have own newsletter and many Branches and IM network have adopted the practice of circulating GWI News and NZFGW News to members. (some duplication of messages and ‘too much to read’)	Single punchy NZ GW Newsletter with space for Branch /IM News. Pooling of communication effort	Single punchy NZ GW Newsletter with news from activities of charitable trusts, and other group initiatives

Changes within National Executive / the NZFGW Charitable Trust

- With Dr Rowena Taylor's retirement, Vivienne Bryner is the new Awards Convenor and Secretary of the NZFGW Charitable Trust.
- Queenie Lin replaces Pat Sivertsen as Treasurer (Pat stays on as Independent Members Convenor)
- Shabnam Seyedmehdi has been appointed as Marketing Convenor

Productivity Commission Inquiry: New Models of Tertiary Education

The Productivity Commission recently published its issues paper on its approach to the Inquiry into New Models of Tertiary Education. The paper and information about the Inquiry and the process can be found [here](#). Initial submissions are due on May 4, and these will inform a draft report to government in September.

The National Executive will make a submission, tightly focussed on the strategic plan objective of 'giving effect to GWI's mission to empower girls and women through education'. I want to draw on the expertise of our membership, so if you would like to be part of a reference group to work with me on this, please get in touch.

Christine Ross, PAC

Web address to report: <http://www.productivity.govt.nz/inquiry-content/2683?stage=2>

From the Ministry of Women's Affairs

[Nominate for 2017 New Year Honours](#)

Know women doing great things? [Nominations](#) for the New Year Honours 2017 are due to the Honours Unit, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, by 24 May 2016. Anyone can nominate a person they think is worthy of a New Zealand Honour. Please pass on to increase the recognition of outstanding women in New Zealand.

[Suffrage petition in new exhibition](#)

[Internal Affairs Minister Hon Peter Dunne](#) said planning is on track for the new constitutional exhibition to open at the National Library of New Zealand in Wellington in early 2017. [A design](#) has been selected for the new exhibition which will enable greater access to three constitutional documents: the 1835 Declaration of Independence of the Northern Chiefs/He Whakaputanga o te Rangatiratanga o Nu Tirenī; the 1840 Treaty of Waitangi /Te Tiriti o Waitangi; and the 1893 Women's Suffrage Petition.

Agreed conclusions from CSW

Ministry for Women Chief Executive Jo Cribb led New Zealand's delegation at the recent [Commission on the Status for Women](#) and discussed the role that women and girls have in New Zealand's sustainable development. The delegates attended many of the side events and spoke at a number of events. The agreed conclusions from the 60th session of CSW are available at the [UN Women website](#).

Encouraging healthy relationships

The Ministry for Women's report, [A malu i 'āiga, e malu fo'i i fafo: Protection for the family, protection for all](#), has encouraged discussions on women's safety within Samoan communities. The report shares, from the perspective of Samoan people, what works to keep Samoan women and girls safe from violence, including how best to promote healthy relationships and respectful behaviours.

News from other Branches

International Women's Day

This year FGW(Otago) celebrated International Women's Day by joining with our members to enjoy a breakfast together at The Wig and Pen.

The speaker was Marion Hobbs. Marion is a former New Zealand politician who was a [Labour](#) Member of Parliament from 1996 to 2008. She was initially a list MP and then (from 1999) represented the [Wellington Central](#) electorate. She was also Associate Principal of Aranui High School, Christchurch and Principal of Avonside Girls' High School, Christchurch. After retiring from Parliament Marian travelled to the United Kingdom where she again was involved in education as a Principal There were well over 30 attending - a wonderful group of women including members of FGW, Zonta, National Council of Women, and others. There was also a mother and daughter and grandmother and granddaughter and this signified the spirit of IWD.

Marion shared her thoughts and experiences on education and gender issues in an entertaining and thoughtful way. She related some formative factors through education in her own background such as one of her teachers, a nun, who explained to the class not to believe everything they were told or read at face value but to think for themselves and question. She explained some of the gender issues that were there in her educational experiences directly and indirectly as a learner and as an educator.

Disclaimer: while every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information in this newsletter, neither NZFGW Canterbury Branch nor the editor accepts any liability for any errors of fact or opinion